

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

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H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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R 150700Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1229
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 1824

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, YE, YS
SUBJECT: YEMENI/PDRY RELATIONS

1. DURING MAY 12 CALLS BY THE VISITING WAR COLLEGE GROUP, HIGH-RANKING MEMBERS OF THE YARG (PRIME MINISTER ABD AL-GHANI, CHIEF-OF-STAFF AL-SHASHMI, FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAJ AND MINISTTER OF DEVELOPMENT BASINDWA) SPOKE OUT IN EXPLICIT AND HARSH TERMS ABOUT THE PRESENT REGIME IN ADEN AND ITS ALLEGED DOUBLE-FACED DEALINGS WITH THE SAUDIS AND OTHER MODERATE GOVERNMENTS IN THE REGION. CHIEF-OF-STAFF AHMAD AL-GHASHMI, FOR EXAMPLE, USED EXTREMELY STRONG LANGUAGE, CALLING PDRY "THE DIRTIEST REGIME IN THE WORLD" WHILE FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAJ ALSO EMPLOYED CRITICAL WORDS IN DESCRIBING PDRY'S CURRENT POLICY OF TAKING MONEY FROM THE SAUDIS WHILE ACCEPTING ARMS FROM THE SOVIETS. MOREOVER PDRY'S WILLINGNESS TO BE A SOVIET TOOL IN THE REGION WAS ALSO HIGHLIGHTED.

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BOTH OF THESE MEN SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED PDRY'S CURRENT SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA MENTIONING INTER ALIA THE RECENT PDRY SUPPLY OF TANKS TO THE LATTER REGIME.

2. ALL THE YEMENI OFFICIALS BELIEVED THAT RECENT SAUDI EFFORTS TO MODERATE THE REGIME IN PDRY HAVE FAILED AND ALL WERE PESSIMISTIC THAT THE ADENI REGIME IS IN FACT WILLING TO

MODERATE ITS INTERNAL POLICIES IN ORDER TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE FROM ITS ARAB BROTHERS. NO ONE HAD SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT MIGHT BE DONE OTHER THAN THE CHIEF-OF-STAFF WHO THOUGHT THAT THE SAUDIS SHOULD BE MORE DEMANDING OF PDRY BEFORE PASSING ON TO IT LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY. NO ONE, HOWEVER, WAS WILLING TO SUGGEST THAT EFFORTS BE ABANDONED BUT ALL EMPHASIZED THAT THE SAUDIS ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE AN EASY JOB OF TURNING PDRY AWAY FROM THE SOVIETS.

3. COMMENT: THE HARSHNESS OF THE COMMENTS WAS SURPRISING, GIVEN THE RECNET SIGNS OF YEMENI/PDRY RAPPROCHEMENT. IT MAY WELL BE THAT THE AL-HAJRI ASSASSINATION AND THE STRONG INDICATIONS OF PDRY INVOLVEMENT IN THAT MURDER ARE BEHIND THIS CIRTICAL AND PESSIMISTIC POSITION AGAINST PDRY TAKEN BY THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT. MOREOVER, PDRY'S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF EHTIOPIA MAY ALSO BE CONVINCING THE YEMENIS, AT LEAST, THAT THE ADENI REGIME IS IN FACT INCORRIGIBLE. THUS, THE YEMENIS, NEVER TOO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SAUDI EFFORTS IN PDRY, MAY NOW BE REINFORCED IN THEIR BELIEF THAT PDRY STILL REMAINS A THREAT TO MODERATION IN THE REGION.
SCOTES

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